

**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**January 31, 2006**  
**4:15 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Sampson, Chair  
Dave Drobisch  
Jay Dunn  
Phil Hogan  
John Snyder

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Merv Jacobs  
Bill Oliver

**COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Don Meyer, Court Administrator  
Captain Rick Bright  
Randy Waks, Asst. State's Attorney.  
Jerry Andrews, Health Dept.  
Sheriff Jerry Dawson  
Daysa Miller, Sup. of Assessments  
Lori Long, Probation  
Steve Grimm, Treasurer  
Amy Stockwell, Auditor

This meeting was called to order by Chair Sampson at the Macon County Office Building.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Phil Hogan to approve the minutes of January 3, 2006, seconded by Dave Drobisch, and motion carried unanimously.

**CLAIMS**

Motion made by John Snyder to approve the claims, seconded by Phil Hogan, and motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS**

***State's Attorney***

Randy Waks requested a resolution on behalf of Teen Court. They received a grant from the IL Criminal Justice Information Authority for \$5,076, and their budget needs to be increased by appropriation of that amount for travel under the line specified in the resolution. Motion made by Dave Drobisch to approve the request, seconded by Phil Hogan, and motion carried unanimously.

***Auditor***

Amy Stockwell said there are two parts to the Building Commission Surplus Funds shown on the agenda. One is paying the building commission in advance; they undertake services on our behalf, and at the end of the year determine whether or not any of the funds we gave them were unspent. They send us a letter and with the approval of the county board, those surplus funds can go against our scheduled rent payment in the current year, i.e. would amend the funds which need to be levied in the summer of 06. Amy said the correspondence has been received from the building commission, and they are advising \$212,731.69 will be available to be applied to future rent payments; she is requesting a resolution from the county board office authorizing that to be done. Motion made by John Snyder to do so, seconded by Dave Drobisch, and motion carried unanimously.

The second item involves the new rent agreement with the building commission. When it was passed last spring, the building commission had not completed their negotiations with the City of Decatur for their use of space in the law enforcement center. Amy said the city has now concluded an 18 month lease with the building commission. When we passed the lease, the higher number was used to make sure the building commission had enough money to operate and since the city has now signed an 18 month lease picking up a portion of the cost, Amy said she is asking Mr. Waks to describe what needs to happen. Randy Waks said he has talked with our bond counsel as well as the bond counsel for the Decatur Public Building Commission; there is a simple intergovernmental agreement to be entered into by the county and the Decatur Public Building Commission which is simply a rent credit agreement which specifies we will receive a credit against the rent we owe for any of that money paid by the city. Randy said it does not require an amendment to the county's lease agreement and does not require any additional bond hearings. The bond counsel for the Decatur Public Building Commission will prepare the document free of charge; Randy said if our counsel is used to do the document, it would cost around \$2500. Our deadline is March 1 and Randy said we would be able to lower our levy as though we had originally agreed to the lower rent amount; he does not have the agreement right now but it could be ready in a couple of days. Dave Drobisch suggested the county go ahead and do it since it will save money and lower the levy which will reflect well with the taxpayers; he doesn't think a resolution is necessary, only direction. John Snyder said he thought this was our original intent anyway. Randy said a resolution would be in order to approve forwarding such an agreement to the county board. Motion made by Dave Drobisch to approve forwarding the agreement to the county board and seconded by John Snyder.

Chair Sampson said we are directing Mr. Waks to proceed with this agreement with the public building commission's bond counsel preparing the document. Randy Waks said if it is not done this way, we would have a higher levy and it would end up being a surplus which would reduce the levy for the next year but we would have a higher levy for this year. By taking this action, Amy Stockwell said you are allowing us not to collect as much money from the taxpayers this year.

Motion carried unanimously.

Amy Stockwell distributed a clean-up resolution for 05. Officeholders cannot make budget transfers between what we call buckets and there are two when we got to the end of the year where spending in the buckets was off, the county clerk and the circuit clerk for the amounts shown. There are four where the auditor needs additional appropriation; one is the retirement fund which should have been brought when the one for social security was brought several months ago. The two highway funds, MFT and Special Bridge, are the same issue which is the timing on how they account for the projects relating to the building cycle and IDOT's cycle versus our fiscal year. Amy is working with highway and the outside auditor to get a better reconciliation; they are holdovers from old projects which were spent in 05. There have been a number of personnel changes at the historical society; Amy said their budget did not reflect changes made at the end of the year and she will work with them to make sure the 06 budget is appropriate. Amy is requesting one resolution for all items on the sheet distributed. Motion made by Dave Drobisch to approve one resolution for all transfers, seconded by Phil Hogan, and motion carried unanimously.

Approval was requested for several dues; IL Counties Solid Waste Management \$75, Solid Waste Assoc. of North America \$165, National Animal Control Assoc. \$125, IL Emergency Services Management Assoc. \$45, Planning/Zoning International Code Council \$180, supervisor of assessments for County Assessor's Assoc. \$250, and the County Auditor's Assoc. \$400. Committee agreed that all are approved for payment.

### ***Sheriff Dawson***

Sheriff Dawson distributed a sheet showing comparable salaries of law enforcement professionals and sheriffs in other counties and the city including adjustments for the new term. A narrative was included showing how he came up with the figures. In his department, every time a step is taken up involving more responsibility, it is usually around a \$5000 bump for equal time and grade. Chair Sampson said we have until May to decide these.

Sheriff Dawson has informed the Justice Committee on the renovation at the jail. Even though the Bivens Whitten section which will be called trod 6, ultimately the female cell block, is getting close to being ready, since we have to do major renovations because of the technology upgrade in all other trods, inmates will have to be shifted to the new area while they are taken down. It will not be able to be used for what the purpose is until the fall. Demonstrations have been given on the central control and if we can do this without using correctional officers since benefits are getting fairly expensive, this is just pushing buttons. It is an important spot since the person would control the jail in and out and who goes where; with the computer generation it is fairly simple with a touch screen and is simpler than what we have now. By using non-union, part-time employees without benefits except social security, within the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year Sheriff Dawson said it is over \$100,000 in savings; with LEST money being spent at an alarming rate, this would stop the point where we are going to cross and we would have to look at layoffs again. He has talked to the rep with the fraternal order of police who represents the correctional officers and he said he will be glad to discuss it in a labor management committee, but Sheriff Dawson feels he will probably be against it. The jail administrator and the deputy jail administrator feel this can be done with part-

time people and Sheriff Dawson would like to try it. He is putting the county on notice there will probably be some type of arbitration regarding this, but he feels the savings will be worth trying this. Dave Drobisch asked if it specifically calls for the position in the contract, and Sheriff Dawson said no

and there is a management rights clause in the contract but they will go by past practice. If the arbitrator is a reasonable person, Sheriff Dawson feels they are in a good position if this comes down to a fight since the same level of union employees would be kept. Chair Sampson said he and others are strong supporters of organized labor and worry if some of those jobs are reduced; however, at some point if we do not get a handle on our costs with the justice system, we will be right back where we were six years ago and looking at laying off people and this may buy us some more room to keep deputies on the streets and correctional officers in the jail. Sheriff Dawson asked if the finance committee has any problem from any standpoint with him going in this direction. Chair Sampson asked if there were any objections from the committee with the sheriff proceeding along these lines, and there were no objections or comments. Sheriff Dawson will have projected savings on a 1, 2, and 3 year plan at the next Finance meeting.

### ***Treasurer***

Steve Grimm said he would have figures on treasurer salaries throughout the state by the middle of the month since the survey is about done. Chair Sampson asked him to include any other stipends he receives since there is one from the state he is aware of even though he is not talking about doing anything with that but just so everyone will know. Steve Grimm said it is all the same, and the sheriff's is the same as his and Mr. Bean's. Chair Sampson asked him to include that.

Sales tax amounts for January 06 were down slightly from January 05 probably due to the drop in gas prices. A sheet was distributed for information showing other reasons drops occur. The income tax for January 06 was up slightly over January 05. Public safety tax was also higher than January 05, \$196,660 for 06 and \$185,919 a year ago.

The third distribution of property tax receipts was done this past Friday. The county general fund received \$110,972.46. Total amount put out in the third disbursement was \$3,739,937.64. Steve said there would be one final tax disbursement in March after the mobile home tax lien sale which will be completed on February 10.

The 2005 property tax bills have arrived signaling the start of a new year.

Steve has completed annual evaluations/discussions in his office. There were many new ideas presented from old heads who have been around for a while, and 3 or 4 of them will be implemented.

Regarding the senior citizen homestead exemption which was declared unconstitutional by the Illinois Supreme Court in December, a bill to rectify it has been introduced by Bob Flider under

House Bill 4789, and it includes raising ceilings again from \$45,000 to \$50,000 on income. It has moved out of the rules committee to the revenue committee and will be heard tomorrow. Another bill introduced by the republicans is pure form; all it does is go back and put it back the way it was.

If it passes in Mr. Flider's form, it is good news for seniors. Two years ago this was done and we took a hit around \$100,000 from the general fund. Steve said he anticipates it will happen again since this will probably be the one that passes. It will correct a situation which could be a lot of problems for us, but we do not have a lot to worry about at this point.

The Macon County trustee has notified Steve that the annual auction of surplus property will be a voice auction sale at Richland, October 17 at 7:00 p.m. They have used a sealed bid process the last two years and results were not what we hoped for. There were only 9 bids the last time. There were many lots listed in the booklet and several are repeaters year after year. After the fall sale, Joe Meyer of the Macon County trustee office and Steve will look at the repeaters and attempt to determine if there are other methods which could be used to sell the lots and get them back on tax rolls. As happened in other counties, Habitat for Humanity and the particular city involved, the community development department, found interest in some of the lots and purchased them so they went back on the tax rolls. This does not reduce it since it is getting bigger and there is a lot of unsightly property. When it is compiled, they do go out, send letters, and check with neighbors to see if there is any interest in a lot contiguous to the property but it has not played too well.

### ***Supervisor of Assessments***

Daysa Miller said she notified the township supervisors by letter about billing the townships if it needs to go back to the county board to approve billing them. Chair Sampson asked if she had discussed it with Chairman Wolfe to see if he wanted to bring it off the table, and Daysa said she would discuss it with him. Chair Sampson said he would let the committee know if it is going to be brought back on the floor. Daysa said there was also an interest in an intergovernmental agreement

so that may be an issue which also comes up. Chair Sampson asked if the Board of Review was done, and Daysa said they are done except for signing off on notices and final abstracts.

Jay Dunn asked if Fairies Park golf course, since under ADM now, is on the tax roll. Daysa said ADM owns it and it is on the tax rolls.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Sampson distributed a copy of a Springfield newspaper article showing what Sangamon County approved on raises for their sheriff, county clerk, and treasurer. As others are received, they will be copied and distributed.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at 4:15 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Dave Drobisch to adjourn, seconded by Phil Hogan, and motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger  
Macon County Board Office